

PRODUCTION OF INFECTIOUS HEPADNAVIRUS
PARTICLES CONTAINING FOAMY RETROVIRUS
ENVELOPE PROTEINS AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention provides a method for producing a
hepadnavirus virion that is infectious in vitro
which comprises: (a) introducing into a cell (i)
a hepadnavirus
genome expression vector and (ii) a foamy retrovirus
envelope expression vector which comprises a
nucleic acid encoding at least a fragment of a
foamy virus envelope protein, and (b) culturing
the cell thereby producing hepadnavirus virions
comprising at least a fragment of a foamy virus
envelope protein, wherein the hepadnavirus
virions are infectious in vitro. A method for
determining susceptibility for an anti-
hepadnavirus drug, a method for determining
replication capacity of a hepadnavirus from an
infected patient, and method for identifying a
mutation in a hepadnavirus nucleic acid that
confers resistance to an anti-hepadnavirus drug
are also provided.